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Wheeling Arts Fest Merges with YWCA Multicultural Festival in 2016 Applications Due by March 15

Wheeling, WV – In January, the City of Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission voted to partner with the YWCA Wheeling to merge the organizations' separate events into a two-day summer festival. The Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest – a combination of the Wheeling Arts Fest and the YWCA Multicultural Fest – will be held Saturday, June 18, through Sunday, June 19, 2016, at Wheeling Heritage Port.

Since 2011, the Wheeling Arts Fest has been held at West Virginia Northern Community College on the Square and the surrounding venues. The event footprint increases each year to the point that it has now outgrown the original site. In order to accommodate this year's festival, the Commission will move the event to Heritage Port.

The Commission also discussed plans to enhance the cultural aspects of the festival to better represent both the arts and cultural components of the group's mission. The partnership with the YWCA and Multicultural Fest is a natural fit that allows the previously one-day events to grow into a two-day summer festival. The YWCA will continue its "Around the World" carnival and expand the cultural food selection, among other activities.

The Wheeling Arts & Culture Fest is set for Saturday, June 18, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 19, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Throughout the weekend, a variety of arts and cultural programs will be offered, including live music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, culinary demonstrations, historical arts, hands-on classes for kids and adults, and much more. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

With the framework set for the weekend, the Commission is now issuing the 2016 call for applications. Interested artists, performers, and vendors can submit applications online via wheelingartsfest.com/apply. This year, application fees can also be paid online for convenience. Applications are due by March 15, 2016.

For more information, contact:

Erika Donaghy, Chair Arts & Cultural Commission 304-280-2616

Rita Gupta, Cultural Diversity Director YWCA Wheeling 304-232-0511



About the City of Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission: The mission of the Wheeling Arts and Cultural Commission is to promote and develop artistic and cultural activities and initiatives that stimulate economic development and advance the quality of life and vibrancy of the greater Wheeling area. The City of Wheeling is a West Virginia Certified Arts Community.

About the YWCA Wheeling: YWCA Wheeling seeks to positively impact the local community and the region, while eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA Wheeling offers a Cultural Diversity and Community Outreach program that helps the community celebrate our cultural diversity.